

St Thomas's Osbaldwick and St James's Murton
Churches with a heart - at the heart of our communities

An Inclusive Church — All are Welcome

Pew Sheet for Sunday 2nd February 2025

Sunday 2nd February - Candlemas

8am Holy Communion at St Thomas's

10am Candlemas Morning Worship at St Thomas's

Reading: Malachi 3: 1—5 Luke 2: 22—40

6pm **at St Helen's Escrick** Derwent Deanery—
Candlemas Choral Evensong with the Choir of Queen
Margaret's School.

Monday 3rd February

9.45 Rhythm time in St Thomas's

7pm Parochial Church Council meets at St Thomas's

Wednesday 5th February

09.30am Playgroup - St Thomas's

Thursday 6th February

10.00am Coffee Drop-in - St Thomas's

Friday 7th February

10.30am Chairobics - St Thomas's

2pm St Thomas's Church and Churchyard Cleaning.
New volunteers are always welcome. **NEW DAY &
TIME**

Saturday 8th February

10am American Breakfast

Sunday 9th February - 4th Sunday before Lent

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas's

4pm Evening Worship at St James's

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1—11. Luke 5: 1—11

Looking ahead....

Electoral Roll Review The Church Representation Rules require a new church electoral roll to be prepared for each parish in 2025 and in every succeeding sixth year. Therefore, we need to prepare a new roll this year. This means that everyone who wishes to be on the Electoral Roll must apply by **3rd March 2025**. Application forms are available in the lobby at both churches. Further information is available from Anne Gray our Electoral Roll Officer

Friday 7th March. World Day of Prayer Service will be held at St Lawrence's Church this year

Monday 31st March 7pm Annual Parochial Church Council meeting.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 3rd February - Look out for early signs of spring today, and in the week ahead. Where can you see days getting longer, buds beginning to appear, new life starting to form?

Tuesday 4th February - Transform an ordinary walk in your neighbourhood, park, or even through your home into a prayer walk. As you walk, pray for your neighbours, the world, or different areas of your life. For example, in your kitchen, you might pray for those without food; in your living room, for family and friends.

Wednesday 5th February - Today, why not use your senses to guide your prayer. **Touch:** Hold a meaningful object, like a cross, stone, or candle, as you pray. **Sight:** Light a candle and focus on its flame, representing God's presence. **Sound:** Play calming worship music or sit in silence to focus on listening to God. **Smell:** Use essential oils or incense to create a soothing prayer atmosphere.

- This practice can help you connect deeply and physically to your prayers.

Thursday 6th February - Listen to the hymn, – Let Love Be Real, played and sung by Matt Beckingham (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=SkBAxZw5NxU>) . - As you hear the words, think about how they might affect your decisions today and in the weeks ahead. - Pray about your responses, and ask God for the courage to love.

Friday 7th February - Combine art and prayer by expressing your thoughts and feelings creatively. Use paints, markers, or collages to illustrate what you'd like to pray about today. Perhaps you might like to colour in a favourite verse from scripture? - Whilst you are being creative, notice what comes into your mind. How is God speaking to you?

Saturday 8th February - Create a "Prayer Jar" or "Prayer Box" where you write prayer requests or things you're thankful for on slips of paper. Each day, pull out one slip and focus your prayer on that specific need or blessing. As the jar fills, you'll have a tangible reminder of God's faithfulness.

At the end of the service and each time of prayer this week:

And so I rise from this moment and I go, I go out in peace – seeking the opportunities to love. I go out in joy to be some who brings hope. I seek to travel well in the world, and be transformed by the Spirit within and all around me. **Amen.**

Collect and Readings for Candlemas

Collect and Prayer for the week

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the
Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All readings are from Bible Gateway - NRSV .

Malachi 3: 1—5

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me,” says the Lord of hosts.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Luke 2: 22-40.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of Christ
Praise to Christ our Lord

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Diocesan Prayer diary—This week join in prayer with the church throughout our diocese for:

Church of England: Diocese of Worcester, Acting Bishop of Worcester, Bishop Martin Gorrick during this vacancy

Church of Norway Diocese of Hamar, Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden.

Anglican Church of South Africa (ACSA) The Safe and Inclusive Church Commission

Find reflections and daily prayers: dioceseofyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary

